

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Re-examination and re-examination are hereby requested.

Claims 1-13 and 19-21 have been allowed.

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US Pat Pub No, 2002/0099875 to Locklear et al. (Locklear)

Referring to claim 18, such claim points out that an electrical circuit is provided for electrically inhibiting the electrical coupling of the electrical component on the additional printed circuit board from the electrical components of the plurality of printed circuit boards. Applicant fails to see such an electric circuit in Locklear. Further, Applicant fails to find any description in Locklear which describes not allowing communication until optimization is complete. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner point out the paragraph that describes this feature. In any event, applicant also fails to find in Locklear an electrical circuit for electrically inhibiting the electrical coupling of the electrical component on the additional printed circuit board from the electrical components of the plurality of printed circuit boards as in claim 18

The Examiner states:

During initialization, the Improvement Engine determines if a particular PCB is preventing the other PCBs on the bus from performing optimally, e.g., Fig. 2, element 116B is slower than the other PCBs and therefore being the bottleneck. The Improvement Engine tells the user to move the PCB element 116B to another slot element 108H. At this point, the PCB originally at element 116B is inhibited from communicating with 116A since they are not on the same bus anymore. Thus, as stated in the previous office action, the Improvement Engine effectively inhibits the electrical coupling of the electrical component of one PCB to other PCBs. (emphasis ours).

Thus, the user, rather than an electrical circuit is used. Claim 18 points out that an electrical circuit is provided for electrically inhibiting the electrical coupling of the electrical component on the additional printed circuit board from the electrical components of the plurality of printed circuit boards. Applicant fails to see such an electric circuit in Locklear.

Application No.: 10/606,872  
Reply to Final Rejection March 4, 2005

In the event a petition for extension of time is required by this paper and not otherwise provided, such petition is hereby made and authorization is provided herewith to charge deposit account No. 05-0889 for the cost of such extension.

In the event any additional fee is required, please charge such amount to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 05-0889.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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